

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

On any given night, there are a significant number of veterans who are living on the streets. The 2005 Homeless Count in Los Angeles County estimated that number to be over 15,000, but there is every indication that number is likely much higher in 2007. Lack of access to services and housing, serious mental health issues, poor strategic planning and a plethora of bureaucratic red tape stand in the way between these honorable men and women and their health and well-being.

We all know the well-documented failures of the service system set in place to assist veterans. While it is my belief that it is ultimately the responsibility of the federal government to address those problems, we cannot stand by and wait for solutions to emerge from Washington while there are veterans living on our streets right now who are suffering, and we anticipate a new influx of veterans who will be coming into our service systems that will require our help.

I believe that the impetus to take action can and should come from the local level. Our Board has made a financial commitment to address the homeless problem in Los Angeles County, and the need to better serve homeless veterans has been raised time and again. The City of Long Beach has a highly effective continuum of care in place to address the homeless problem, and it is believed that up to 14% of the total number of homeless veterans in Los Angeles County can be found in the Long Beach area.

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

Instituting a program specifically designed for homeless veterans and their special needs will be an effective means not only to address the very serious homeless problem impacting our communities, but to also honor these men and women for their military service by making sure they don't fall through the cracks.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer work in coordination with the City of Long Beach to develop a comprehensive service package to improve and enhance specialized services for homeless veterans in the Long Beach area, and report back with an implementation plan in 90 days.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer move \$500,000 from the Fourth District's allocation of ongoing stabilization center funds from the Homeless Prevention Initiative Fund, to a provisional use fund to support the service enhancements identified in the plan.